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Simonov, Yu. A.; Tjon, J. A.

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Yu. A. Simonov

*Institute of Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia*

J. A. Tjon

*Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Utrecht, 3584 CC Utrecht, The Netherlands and KVI, University of Groningen, 9747 AA Groningen, The Netherlands*

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Dynamics of a light quark in the field of static source (heavy-light meson) is studied using the nonlinear Dirac equation, derived recently. Special attention is paid to the contribution of magnetic correlators and it is found that it yields a significant increase of string tension at intermediate distances. The spectrum of heavy-light mesons is computed with account of this contribution and compared to experimental and lattice data.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The nature of the QCD string between static charges (the static string) was studied extensively both analytically [1–3] and on the lattice [4–6]. It was shown in these papers that the static string is predominantly electric (the connected probing plaquette is used for the analysis) and the electric field is directed along the string axis.

In terms of the Field Correlator Formalism (FCM) [7,8] the static string is made of the correlators of electric fields only, and recent analysis in terms of Casimir scaling [9,10] shows that up to 1% accuracy the string is formed by the bilocal correlator of electric fields  $D_{\parallel}^E(x, y) \equiv \langle \frac{g^2}{N_c} \text{tr} E_{\parallel}(x) \Phi(x, y) E_{\parallel}(y) \rangle$  (where  $\Phi(x, y)$  is the parallel transporter and  $E_{\parallel}(x)$  is the component of electric field parallel to the string axis). Thus the confinement dynamics for heavy (static) quarks is defined by  $D_{\parallel}^E(x, y)$  with this accuracy.

This fact was used to construct the effective Lagrangian for light quarks in the field of the static charge (the heavy-light quark-antiquark system) [11,12]. The analysis made in [11] has shown that using this Lagrangian one can derive in the large  $N_c$  limit the nonlinear and nonlocal Dirac equation for the light quark Green's function

$$(-i\hat{\partial} - im - i\hat{M})S = \hat{1} \quad (1)$$

where the kernel  $\hat{M} = M(x, y)$  is proportional to the bilocal (Gaussian) field correlator

$$\langle \frac{g^2}{N_c} \text{tr} F_{\mu\nu}(x) \Phi(x, y) F_{\lambda\sigma}(y) \rangle \equiv D_{\mu\nu, \lambda\sigma}(x, y)$$

and to the Green's function  $S$ .

It was shown in [11,12] that the scalar confinement occurs at large distances in the selfconsistent solution of (1), signalling Chiral Symmetry Breaking(CSB). The subsequent analysis in [13] has supported this conclusion and the spectrum of the heavy-light meson states was calculated together with first estimates of the chiral condensate.

In [13] it was assumed that the electric correlators are dominant in the string and the magnetic part could be neglected. On the other hand the analysis of the heavy quark mass case (i.e. of equation (1) with the replacement of  $M(D, S)$  by  $M(D, S_0)$  where  $S_0$  is the free Green's function for the heavy mass  $m$ ) done in [11], Appendix 5, and in [14,15], has shown that the magnetic correlators can also significantly contribute (at least in the regime when  $mT_g \ll 1$ , where  $T_g$  is the slope of  $D_{\mu\nu, \lambda\sigma}$ ). It is a purpose of the present paper to study systematically the role of magnetic correlators for the light quark mass case,  $m \ll \sqrt{\sigma}$ , and to make quantitative analysis in this case. As a byproduct of our analysis the case of heavy quark mass is reconsidered and some refinements of previous results are obtained.

## II. MAGNETIC FIELD CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONFINING STRING

We study in this section the solution of Eq. (1) with the help of relativistic WKB approach, similarly as in [11]. The kernel  $\hat{M}$  (where only the bilocal field correlator is kept and the Gaussian form for it is assumed) can be written in the form

$$iM(h, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \gamma_\mu S(x, y) \gamma_\nu J_{\mu\nu}(x, y) \quad (2)$$

where

$$J_{\mu\nu}(x, y) = \exp(-h^2/4T_g^2) J_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}), \quad h = x_4 - y_4, \quad (3)$$

and

$$J_{44} \equiv J^{(E)}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{y} f_E(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \frac{\sigma}{2\pi T_g^2}, \quad (4)$$

$$J_{ik} \equiv J_{ik}^{(M)} = (\mathbf{x}\mathbf{y} \delta_{ik} - y_i x_k) f_M(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \frac{\sigma}{2\pi T_g^2}. \quad (5)$$

Finally,

$$f_{E(M)}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \int_0^1 ds \int_0^1 dt (st)^\alpha \exp\left(-\frac{(\mathbf{x}s - \mathbf{y}t)^2}{4T_g^2}\right) \quad (6)$$

where  $\alpha = 0$  for  $f_E$  and 1 for  $f_M$ .

In what follows only asymptotic values of  $f_{E,M}$  will be of importance, with  $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}| \ll |\mathbf{x}|, |\mathbf{y}| \gg T_g$ , in which case one has

$$f_E(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}) = 3f_M(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}) \cong \frac{2\sqrt{\pi}T_g}{|\mathbf{x}|}. \quad (7)$$

It should be noted at this point, that sub- and superscripts  $E$  and  $M$  refer to the correlators of color-electric and color-magnetic fields respectively. Due to the structure of Eqs. (5-6) for  $\mathbf{x} \cong \mathbf{y} \rightarrow \infty$  the kernel is dominated by the color-electric field contribution. On the basis of this, in [13] the magnetic part of  $M$  was disregarded. However, in what follows we will show that for light quarks the magnetic part plays an important role at intermediate distances and as a consequence it can affect strongly the lower lying states of the heavy-light systems.

The kernel  $M$ , Eq. (2), contains the light quark Green's function  $S$ , which is a selfconsistent solution of Eq. (1). Following Ref. [11] we can determine  $S$  assuming that  $M$  in the first approximation is instantaneous. In this case  $S$  has the spectral decomposition in terms of eigenvalues  $\varepsilon_n$  and eigenfunctions  $\psi_n$ ,

$$S(h, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = i \left\{ \sum_{n+} e^{-\varepsilon_n h} \theta(h) \psi_n(\mathbf{x}) \psi_n^+(\mathbf{y}) - \sum_{n-} e^{-\varepsilon_n h} \theta(-h) \psi_n(\mathbf{x}) \psi_n^+(\mathbf{y}) \right\} \gamma_4 \equiv i \{ \theta(h) S^{(+)} - \theta(-h) S^{(-)} \} \gamma_4 \quad (8)$$

$\varepsilon_{n+} = \varepsilon_n^{(+)}$  and  $\varepsilon_{n-} = -\varepsilon_n^{(-)}$  where  $\sum_{n+}$  and  $\sum_{n-}$  refer to sums over positive and negative eigenvalues respectively.

Insertion of (8) in (2) then yields for  $M$

$$M(h, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = -i \gamma_\mu S \gamma_\nu J_{\mu\nu} = \theta(h) [S^{(+)} \gamma_4 J^{(E)} - J_{ik}^{(M)} \gamma_i S^{(+)} \gamma_4 \gamma_k] - \theta(-h) [S^{(-)} \gamma_4 J^{(E)} - J_{ik}^{(M)} \gamma_i S^{(-)} \gamma_4 \gamma_k]. \quad (9)$$

To find the properties of  $\hat{M}$  we replace  $S$  by  $S_{lin}$  in Eq. (2), obtaining in this way  $M_{lin}$ , where  $S_{lin}$  is the quark Green's function of the linear Dirac equation (1) with the kernel  $\hat{M}$  replaced by  $\sigma|\mathbf{x}|\delta^{(4)}(x - y)$  (i.e. the static Dirac equation with linear potential  $\sigma x$ ). We now demonstrate that  $M_{lin}$  indeed tends to  $\sigma|\mathbf{x}|$  at large distances, and thus yields the a posteriori proof that the large distance dynamics of the heavy light quark system is governed by the linear static local confining potential. At the same time, in the framework of the same formalism, it will be shown that at intermediate distance a region appears, where the dynamics is again local in time and static but with a larger string tension due to the contribution of magnetic terms. For  $S^{(\pm)}$  the spherical spinor expansion has the form

$$S^{(\pm)}(h, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \sum_{(n^\pm)} e^{-\varepsilon_n h} \psi_n(\mathbf{x}) \psi_n^+(\mathbf{y}) =$$

$$= \sum_{n\pm} \frac{e^{-\varepsilon_n h}}{xy} \begin{pmatrix} G_n(x)G_n^*(y)\Omega_{jlm}\Omega_{jlm}^*, & -iG_n(x)F_n^*(y)\Omega_{jlm}\Omega_{jl'm}^* \\ iF_n(x)G_n^*(y)\Omega_{jl'm}\Omega_{jlm}^*, & F_n(x)F_n^*(y)\Omega_{jl'm}\Omega_{jl'm}^* \end{pmatrix} \quad (10)$$

Similarly as in Ref. [11], we may carry out the summation over partial waves in (10) using the WKB approximation for the solutions  $G_n, F_n$ . As exploited in [11,21] the results for  $S^{(-)}$  can simply be obtained from  $S^{(+)}$  using the symmetry of  $\varepsilon_{n+}$  and  $\varepsilon_{n-}$  solutions, namely  $\varepsilon_n^{(+)} = \varepsilon_n^{(-)} \equiv \varepsilon_n$  and  $(\varepsilon_n, G_n, F_n, \kappa) \leftrightarrow (-\varepsilon_n, F_n, G_n, -\kappa)$ . We quote the final result of the WKB analysis for  $S^{(\pm)}$ , when  $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}| \ll |\mathbf{x}|$

$$S^{(\pm)} = \frac{\sigma e^{-\lambda}}{4\pi y} \delta(1 - \cos \theta) \begin{pmatrix} \Delta_1 \pm \Delta_0, & X \\ \bar{X} & \Delta_1 \mp \Delta_0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (11)$$

where  $\lambda = (m + \sigma x)|h|$ . The matrix elements  $X, \bar{X}$  contribute a nongrowing part to  $M$  and will be of no interest to us in what follows, while  $\Delta_1, \Delta_0$  are defined as

$$\frac{2}{\pi} \int_1^\infty d\tau e^{-\lambda(\tau-1)} \frac{\cos(a\sqrt{\tau^2-1})}{\sqrt{\tau^2-1}} = \frac{2}{\pi} K_0(\sqrt{\lambda^2+a^2}) e^\lambda \equiv \Delta_0(a) \quad (12)$$

and

$$\frac{2}{\pi} \int_1^\infty \frac{\tau d\tau e^{-\lambda(\tau-1)}}{\sqrt{\tau^2-1}} \cos(a\sqrt{\tau^2-1}) = \frac{2}{\pi} e^\lambda \frac{\lambda K_1(\sqrt{\lambda^2+a^2})}{\sqrt{\lambda^2+a^2}} \equiv \Delta_1(a). \quad (13)$$

Here  $a \cong (\sigma x + m)|x - y|$  for  $\sigma x^2 \gg 1$  and  $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}| \ll x$ . From expressions (12) and (13) we see that  $\Delta_0, \Delta_1$  are normalized as

$$\int_0^\infty \Delta_0(a) da = \int_0^\infty \Delta_1(a) da = 1 \quad (14)$$

and hence diagonal elements of  $S^{(\pm)}$  behave as smeared  $\delta$ - functions:

$$\int S^{(\pm)}(h, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) d^3 y = \frac{1}{2} e^{-\lambda} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \pm 1 & \\ & 1 \mp 1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (15)$$

Indeed for large  $\sigma x$  the functions  $\Delta_0, \Delta_1$  decrease exponentially fast when  $|x - y|$  increases. Consider now Eq. (1),

$$\begin{aligned} & (-i\gamma_\mu \partial_\mu - im) S(h, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) - i \int e^{-\frac{(h-h')^2}{4T_g^2}} dh' e^{-(\sigma x + m)|h-h'|} \times \\ & \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \theta(h-h') & \\ & \theta(h'-h) \end{pmatrix} J^{(E)}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}) + \begin{pmatrix} \theta(h'-h) & \\ & \theta(h-h') \end{pmatrix} J_{ik}^{(M)} \gamma_i \gamma_k \right\} S(h', \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \\ & = \delta^{(4)}(x - y). \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

In Eq. (16) the integration  $\int M(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) S(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{y}) d^3 z$  has been carried out using Eq. (15). The obtained equation is a Dirac equation with a time-dependent interaction, localized in configurational space. We may now take into account that at large  $x \gg T_g$  we have

$$J^{(E)}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}) = \frac{\sigma x}{\sqrt{\pi} T_g}; \quad J_{ik}^{(M)} \gamma_i \gamma_k = \frac{2}{3} \frac{\sigma x}{\sqrt{\pi} T_g}. \quad (17)$$

There exist two regions in  $\mathbf{x}$ , where Eq. (16) can be simplified further. Considering the integration over  $dh'$  in (16), in the situation when  $\sigma x^2 \gg 1$  and  $T_g \rightarrow 0$ , we have the two possibilities

$$i) \quad (m + \sigma x) T_g \ll 1 \quad (18)$$

$$ii) \quad (m + \sigma x) T_g \gg 1. \quad (19)$$

In the first case, i.e. when (18) holds, the leading contribution to the integral over  $dh'$  come from the region  $|h' - h| \lesssim 2T_g$  because of the first factor in the integrand of Eq. (16). Since the remaining factors vary smoothly over this region, provided (18) is satisfied, we may replace  $h' = h$  in these factors, including  $S(h', \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ . In so doing we get

$$(-i\gamma_\mu \partial_\mu - im - \frac{i5\sigma}{3}x)S = \delta^{(4)}(x - y). \quad (20)$$

Note that corrections to the interaction have the form of a series in powers of  $(1/(m + \sigma x)T_g)$ , and can be neglected in the first approximation. For this case both color-electric and color-magnetic terms contribute to the kernel  $M$ .

Let us now turn to the second case, Eq. (19). Since  $S(h', \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$  varies as  $\exp(-(\sigma x + m)|h'|)$  (cf Eq.(11)) and there is the factor  $\exp(-(\sigma x + m)|h - h'|)$  in (16), it is essential that the above factors being integrated out with  $\theta(h - h')$  or  $\theta(h' - h)$  in the expression (16). For the term with  $\theta(h - h')$  we get  $\exp(-(\sigma x + m)h)$  and bounds of integral are defined by  $T_g$ , whereas for the term with  $\theta(h' - h)$  the integration over  $dh'$  yields a factor  $1/(\sigma x + m)$ , so that this contribution does not grow for large  $x$ . As a consequence the color-magnetic term can be neglected in case (19).

Consequently writing the  $S(h, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$  in the form

$$S(h, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = ie^{-(\sigma x + m)|h|} g(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \begin{pmatrix} \theta(h) \\ \theta(-h) \end{pmatrix} \quad (21)$$

where  $g(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \approx \tilde{\delta}^{(3)}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})$  is a smeared  $\delta$ -function, one obtains an equation

$$(-i\gamma_\mu \partial_\mu - im - i\sigma x)S(h, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \delta^{(4)}(x - y), \quad (22)$$

where all interaction  $\sigma x$  is due to the electric term  $J^{(E)}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x})$ .

In this way we have confirmed a posteriori that solution  $S$  of (1) has at large distances the form of the Green's function for the linear potential, as given by (22), and hence our choice of  $S = S_{lin}$  as the first approximation for the kernel  $M$ , Eq. (2), is justified.

Let us now discuss the regimes (18) and (19) in more detail. Consider first the case of heavy quark mass,

$$mT_g \gg 1. \quad (23)$$

In this case one automatically obtains the regime (19) and hence the linear potential as in (22). Since  $T_g \sim 1\text{GeV}^{-1}$ , only top and bottom quarks satisfy (23), while charmed quark mass lies at the boundary. In the limit  $m \rightarrow \infty$  the Green's function  $S_{lin}$  Eqs. (8,11) becomes the standard heavy-quark expression

$$S_{lin} \rightarrow S_0 = \frac{ie^{-m|h|}}{2} \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) \{ \theta(h)(1 + \gamma_4) + \theta(-h)(1 - \gamma_4) \}, \quad (24)$$

which agrees with Refs. [11], [14] and [15]. However one should not interpret this as corresponding to an admixture of scalar and vector confining pieces, i.e.  $V_{mix} = \sigma x(\frac{5}{6} + \frac{1}{6}\gamma_4)$ , since as it was shown explicitly in [11], and also here, in view of the symmetry of the spectrum, that in the limiting case  $mT_g \gg 1$  the potential has to be pure scalar  $V_{scalar} = \sigma x$ , Eq. (22).

We now turn to the case  $(m + \sigma x)T_g \ll 1$ . It is clear that this condition is valid only for a restricted region of  $x$ . However, for light quarks the selfconsistent solution of (1) with the replacement (24) in the kernel  $\hat{M}$  is not a good approximation for calculating the spectrum of the lower lying states, since Eq. (23) is violated. This conclusion agrees with the one found in [15]. For low mass states, where the effective region of interaction  $x_{eff}$  satisfies

$$(m + \sigma x_{eff})T_g \ll 1, \quad (25)$$

one should use Eq. (16) with the approximation valid for the regime  $mT_g \ll 1$ . It is a reasonable starting approximation for the whole region of  $x$  as long as we are interested for the spectrum, satisfying the condition (25). It should be noted, that in that case the controversy discussed in Ref. [15] for the replacement (24) does not take place. Moreover, the conclusion reached in Ref. [14] that the effective interaction has the form  $V = \frac{5}{3}\sigma x$ , applies only to the states for which  $x_{eff}$  satisfies Eq. (25), whereas for higher excited states inevitably another regime, Eq. (19), starts to apply with  $V_{eff} = \sigma x$  instead of  $\frac{5}{3}\sigma x$ .

The region of validity of the magnetic string tension is important from the physical point of view, since the additional  $\frac{2}{3}\sigma x$  originates from magnetic field correlators. From our analysis we clearly see that at asymptotic large  $x$ , i.e. is for very long (and therefore heavy strings), the confining mechanism is purely electric. Moreover, the field contents is independent of the quark masses at the end of the string. It is only at intermediate regions where the magnetic

contribution may play an important role. In particular, we have found that instead of regimes  $mT_g \gg 1, mT_g \ll 1$  investigated in Refs. [11] and [14,15] one has the two regimes (18) or (19) where the total mass of the string plus quark mass enters, and the resulting confining force is linear, but with different strength. For heavy quarks with  $mT_g \gg 1$  the regime (18) is essentially absent and we may safely use the color electric confinement mechanism.

From the phenomenological point of view the lowest states of light quarks with the property (15) feel string tension  $\frac{5}{3}\sigma$  and this may be important for the resulting masses of heavy-light systems, such as  $D, D_s, B, B_s$  as it will be demonstrated in the next section (a similar remark about  $D_s$  and  $B_s$  was made earlier in [14]).

Moreover, this increase of string tension resolves substantially (at least for the lowest levels) the discrepancy found for the Regge slopes of light mesons using relativistic quasi-potential equations for particles with spin, c.f. [17]. In particular, it was found in Ref. [16] that a larger string tension of  $\sigma = 0.33 \text{ GeV}^2$  than the usually accepted value of  $0.18 \text{ GeV}^2$  was needed to fit the experimental spectrum of the light mesons. This should be contrasted with the prediction  $\alpha_1 = \frac{1}{8\sigma}$  for the Regge slope, given by  $J = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 M^2$ , in the case of the spinless Salpeter equation [18], which is close to the nonrelativistic prediction. A similar result is found in the case of our nonlocal kernel for the light-heavy quark system. Considering the Regge trajectories as obtained in Ref. [13] and Table I of this paper we find for the case of the light-heavy quark system a value of  $\alpha_1 \cong \frac{1}{\sigma}$ . This is to be compared with the spinless Salpeter prediction for this system, given by  $\alpha_1 = \frac{1}{4\sigma}$ . The effect of the covariant treatment of the spin can already be seen when we use the linear Dirac equation with  $V(x) = \sigma x + c_0$  for heavy-light mesons. In this case we get a slope of  $\frac{1}{2\sigma}$  for  $c_0 = 0$ . Most of the difference between our results and those of the linear Dirac equation can be attributed to having at large distance an effective negative constant term  $c_0$  in the linear potential present in the case of the nonlocal kernel [13], which leads to the shifting of the bound state masses. It should be noted, that there is another mechanism [19,20] to decrease the Regge slope. Considering a rotating string [19] the Regge slope gets somewhat closer to the nonrelativistic result. One finds a value of  $\frac{1}{\pi\sigma}$  in the case of the light-heavy quark system, corresponding to a physical half-string.

### III. SPECTRUM OF HEAVY-LIGHT MESONS

The analysis of the previous section suggests that the lowest bound state solutions of (1) can be determined from the approximate instantaneous nonlocal Dirac equation of the form

$$(\boldsymbol{\alpha}\mathbf{p} + \beta m)\psi_n(\mathbf{x}) + \beta \int \tilde{M}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})\psi_n(\mathbf{z})d^3\mathbf{z} = \varepsilon_n\psi_n(\mathbf{x}). \quad (26)$$

Using the WKB solution for the Green's function  $S$  we find that for small  $T_g$  the kernel  $\tilde{M}$  can be approximated by

$$\tilde{M}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \left[ \sqrt{\pi}T_g J^{(E)}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) + \int dh' \theta(h') e^{-\frac{(h')^2}{4T_g^2}} e^{-2(\sigma x + m)h'} J_{ik}^{(M)}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) \gamma_i \gamma_k \right] \tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}), \quad (27)$$

where  $\tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})$  is defined as

$$\tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \frac{\sigma}{4\pi z} \delta(1 - \cos \theta_{xz}) [\tilde{\Delta}_0(a) + \tilde{\Delta}_1(a)] \quad (28)$$

with  $\tilde{\Delta}_0(a)$  and  $\tilde{\Delta}_1(a)$  denoting the limiting values of  $\Delta_0(a)$  and  $\Delta_1(a)$  respectively when  $\lambda \equiv \sigma x h \sim \sigma x T_g$  tends to zero. For low lying states of the light quark system the spatial regions of interest are expected to satisfy the condition (18), i.e.  $(m + \sigma x)T_g \ll 1$ . Hence we get

$$\tilde{M}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \sqrt{\pi}T_g \{ J^{(E)}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) + J_{ik}^{(M)}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) \gamma_i \gamma_k \} \tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}). \quad (29)$$

It is seen in (28) that at large  $x$  and  $z$  the function  $\tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})$  tends to  $\delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z})$  and from (17) one immediately obtains

$$\tilde{M}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) \cong \frac{5}{3} \sigma x \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}) \quad (30)$$

In what follows we shall solve Eq. (26) in two cases *i*) when  $\tilde{M}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})$  is replaced by its large distance limit (30) *ii*) when  $\tilde{M}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})$  is approximated by

$$\tilde{M}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \tilde{M}_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \sqrt{\pi} T_g \frac{5}{3} J^E(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) \frac{\sigma \delta(1 - \cos \theta_{xz})}{\pi^2 \sqrt{xz}} K_0(a). \quad (31)$$

The latter approximation is justified in the situation when  $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}| \ll x$ , which follows from the exponential damping of  $K_0(a)$  when  $|a|$  grows.

One can exploit the computations from [13] to obtain the eigenvalues  $\varepsilon_n(j, l)$  of Eq. (26) with the kernel (31) for the lowest states, given in Table 1 for the case of the vanishing quark mass,  $m = 0$ , and in Table 2 for the mass  $m = 0.15$  and in Table 3 for  $m = 0.20$  GeV.

In what follows we shall first concentrate on the  $s$  – and  $p$ –state eigenvalues and compare them to the results of the QCD sum rules and lattice calculations. In the language of heavy quark effective theory one has the following expansion [22]- [25] for the heavy-light meson mass  $m_H$

$$m_h = m_Q \left( 1 + \frac{\bar{\Lambda}}{m_Q} + \frac{1}{2m_Q^2}(\lambda_1 + d_H \lambda_2) + O\left(\frac{1}{m_q^3}\right) \right), \quad (32)$$

where  $\bar{\Lambda}(n, j, l) = \varepsilon_n(j, l)$ . Using  $\sigma = 0.18 \text{ GeV}^2$  the solution of (26) with the kernel (31) yields the  $S$ -wave eigenvalue  $\bar{\Lambda}(0, \frac{1}{2}, 0) \equiv \bar{\Lambda}_S$

$$\bar{\Lambda}_S = 0.520 \text{ GeV for } \alpha_s = 0, \quad \bar{\Lambda}_S = 0.360 \text{ GeV for } \alpha_s = 0.3, \quad (33)$$

which are about a factor of  $\sqrt{\frac{3}{5}}$  smaller in the absence of the magnetic contribution. The predicted values (33) should be compared with the results of the QCD heavy-flavour sum rules [22–25]  $\bar{\Lambda}_S = 0.57 \pm 0.07 \text{ GeV}$  and the result of the analysis from semileptonic  $B$  decays [26]  $\bar{\Lambda}_S = 0.39 \pm 0.11 \text{ GeV}$ . A similar value was obtained recently from the QCD sum rules [27].

$$\bar{\Lambda}_S = 0.45 \pm 0.15 \text{ GeV} \quad (34)$$

One can see a reasonable agreement of our results with the latest sum rule calculations (34). Note here that we have taken into account the color Coulomb interaction to all orders, whereas in the QCD sum rules only the leading order term is retained, therefore one may expect that higher orders will decrease somewhat the value (34).

In a similar way one may compute energy eigenvalues for the strange heavy-light mesons. From Tables 2 and 3 we see that with  $\alpha = 0.3$  we have

$$\bar{\Lambda}_S^{(s)} = 0.445 \text{ GeV for } m = 0.15 \text{ GeV}, \quad \bar{\Lambda}_S^{(s)} = 0.476 \text{ GeV for } m = 0.20 \text{ GeV}. \quad (35)$$

These numbers can be compared to the values from the experimental  $B_s$  and  $D_s$  masses. We find

$$\Delta M_s^{(B)} = M_{B_s} - M_B \cong 90 \text{ MeV}, \quad \Delta M_s^{(D)} = M_{D_s} - M_D \cong 100 \text{ MeV}. \quad (36)$$

Similar values are found from the spectrum of heavy-light mesons, computed recently on the lattice [28] for strange mesons. From Eq. (35) we see that the experimental data are close to our predicted value of  $\Delta M_s = \Lambda_S^{(s)} - \Lambda_S = 85 \text{ MeV}$  for  $m = 0.15 \text{ GeV}$ . The various available data on  $\Lambda_S$  are summarized in Table 4.

We turn now to orbital and radial excitations. For the states with  $l = 1$ , and  $j = \frac{3}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  the mass splitting is due to the spin-orbit interaction inherent in the Dirac equation. Denoting these energies as  $\varepsilon_n(j, 1) \equiv \bar{\Lambda}_P(j)$  we find for the nonstrange quark (in GeV):

$$\bar{\Lambda}_P(\frac{1}{2}) = 0.817, \quad \bar{\Lambda}_P(\frac{3}{2}) = 0.732 \quad (\alpha_s = 0) \quad (37)$$

$$\bar{\Lambda}_P(\frac{1}{2}) = 0.665, \quad \bar{\Lambda}_P(\frac{3}{2}) = 0.620 \quad (\alpha_s = 0.3). \quad (38)$$

Similarly for strange mesons with a strange quark mass  $m = 0.15 \text{ GeV}$ , we obtain

$$\bar{\Lambda}_P^{(s)}(\frac{1}{2}) = 0.898, \quad \bar{\Lambda}_P^{(s)}(\frac{3}{2}) = 0.832 \quad (\alpha_s = 0) \quad (39)$$

$$\bar{\Lambda}_P^{(s)}(\frac{1}{2}) = 0.741, \quad \bar{\Lambda}_P^{(s)}(\frac{3}{2}) = 0.712 \quad (\alpha_s = 0.3). \quad (40)$$

These calculations can be compared with the results of lattice calculations in [28], with experiment and the recent QCD sum rule calculations [27]. The latter yield for  $m = 0$

$$\bar{\Lambda}_P = (1 \pm 0.2) \text{ GeV}. \quad (41)$$

This value is somewhat higher than the results (37) and (38). Lattice calculations in [28] give for the difference  $M(B_j^*) - M(B) \simeq \bar{\Lambda}_P - \bar{\Lambda}_S \approx 456 \text{ MeV}$ , which should be compared with our results,  $\Delta\bar{\Lambda} \equiv \bar{\Lambda}_P(\frac{1}{2}) - \bar{\Lambda}_S \simeq 305 \text{ MeV}$  for  $\alpha_s = 0.3$  and with experiment  $M(B_j^*) - M(B) \simeq 338 \text{ MeV}$ . Here  $M(B) = \frac{3}{4}M_B(1^-) + \frac{1}{4}M_B(0^-)$ . In addition there is a calculation of heavy-light mesons in the framework of the QCD string approach [29], where the only input is current quark masses ( $m_n, m_d, m_s$ ), string tension  $\sigma$  and  $\alpha_s$ . These results have been obtained in [30] and recently in [31] for real  $B, B_s, D, D_s$  mesons and are easily computed for the limiting case of  $m_q \rightarrow \infty$ , which yields values listed in Table 5. The rather low value found for  $\Delta\bar{\Lambda}$  suggests that we still miss some strength in the orbital excitation in the present work. In Table 5 the results of different approaches to  $\bar{\Lambda}_P$  and  $\bar{\Lambda}_P^{(s)}$  are collected.

Radial excitations are readily obtained from solving Eqs. (26), (31) and yield for the  $n = 1$  state

$$\varepsilon_1(\frac{1}{2}, 0) = 0.951 \quad (\alpha_s = 0), \quad 0.805 \quad (\alpha_s = 0.3) \quad (42)$$

and for the strange meson with  $m = 150 \text{ MeV}$

$$\varepsilon_1^{(s)}(\frac{1}{2}, 0) = 1.036 \quad (\alpha_s = 0), \quad 0.880 \quad (\alpha_s = 0.3) \quad (43)$$

while for the radial excitation with  $l = 1$  one obtains

$$\varepsilon_1(j, 1) = 1.140 \quad (\alpha_s = 0), \quad 0.997 \quad (\alpha_s = 0.3) \quad (44)$$

$$\varepsilon_1^{(s)}(j, 1) = 1.221 \quad (\alpha_s = 0), \quad 1.076 \quad (\alpha_s = 0.3) \quad (45)$$

These values are compared in Table 6 with the results of the QCD string approach and recent lattice calculations [28].

#### IV. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The main results of the present paper are of both theoretical and phenomenological scope. On the theoretical side it is shown in Section 2, that there exist two possible dynamical regimes for the quark at the end of the Dirac string, namely (18) and (19). For the case of heavy quark with  $mT_g \ll 1$  only one regime (19) is available and results are the same as discussed in [11,14,15]; i.e. color magnetic contribution to the string is suppressed in this case and one has at large  $x$  local Dirac equation with linear potential.

For the case of light quark there is a possibility of another regime (18), where color magnetic field also contributes. It is shown that this regime operates at intermediate distances and yields a static Dirac equation with increased string tension. It is demonstrated also that the use in this case in the kernel of nonlinear Dirac equation of the full quark propagator  $S$  (or its WKB approximation  $S_{WKB}$ ) leads to the consistent results, while the use of the heavy-mass propagator  $S_0$  - leads to inconsistencies shown in [15]. On the phenomenological side the regime (18) yields the energy eigenvalues which are in a better agreement with other calculations and experiment, as demonstrated in Tables 4-6, as compared to our previous results [13] where color-magnetic contribution has been neglected.

The study of the role of color magnetic fields in the dynamics of light quarks is at its beginning and the first results call for more detailed investigation of the transition between regimes (18) and (19) and other applications, e.g. to mesons and baryons consisting of light and heavy quarks.

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**Table 1**

	$\frac{1}{2}, 0$	$\frac{1}{2}, 1$	$\frac{3}{2}, 1$	$\frac{3}{2}, 2$	$\frac{5}{2}, 2$	$\frac{5}{2}, 3$	$\frac{7}{2}, 3$
$\alpha_s = 0$	0.520	0.817	0.732	0.934	0.911	1.147	1.070
$\alpha_s = 0.3$	0.360	0.665	0.620	0.885	0.818	1.057	0.987

Ground state energy eigenvalues  $\varepsilon_n(j, l)$  in GeV,  $n = 0$ , for two values of  $\alpha_s$  and  $\sigma = 0.18 \text{ GeV}^2$ ,  $T_g = 0.23 \text{ fm}$ ,  $m=0$ .

**Table 2**

	$\frac{1}{2}, 0$	$\frac{1}{2}, 1$	$\frac{3}{2}, 1$	$\frac{3}{2}, 2$	$\frac{5}{2}, 2$	$\frac{5}{2}, 3$	$\frac{7}{2}, 3$
$\alpha_s = 0$	0.623	0.898	0.832	1.078	1.010	1.233	1.168
$\alpha_s = 0.3$	0.445	0.741	0.712	0.965	0.911	1.140	1.081

The same as in Table 1 but for  $m = 0.15 \text{ GeV}$ .

**Table 3**

	$\frac{1}{2}, 0$	$\frac{1}{2}, 1$	$\frac{3}{2}, 1$	$\frac{3}{2}, 2$	$\frac{5}{2}, 2$	$\frac{5}{2}, 3$	$\frac{7}{2}, 3$
$\alpha_s = 0$	0.659	0.927	0.867	1.107	1.044	1.263	1.202
$\alpha_s = 0.3$	0.476	0.769	0.744	0.994	0.944	1.169	1.114

The same as in Table 1 but for  $m = 0.20 \text{ GeV}$ .

**Table 4**

Energy eigenvalues  $\bar{\Lambda}_S$  of the heavy-light system in the static heavy quark approximation obtained in different approaches.

Refs.	Method	$\Lambda_S$ (GeV)
24	QCD sum rules	0.5
25	QCD sum rules	$0.4 \div 0.5$
27	QCD sum rules	$0.45 \pm 0.15$
26	Experiment	$0.39 \pm 0.11$
13	Nonlin. Dirac	0.287
this work	Nonlin.+ magnetic	0.360

**Table 5**

The same as in Table 4 but for  $\bar{\Lambda}_P - \bar{\Lambda}_S$ .

Refs.	Method	$\Lambda_P - \Lambda_S$ (GeV)
27	QCD sum rules	$0.55 \pm 0.35$
31	QCD string	0.40
28	Lattice	0.47
PDG	Experiment	0.383
this work	Nonlin.+ magnetic	$0.305 (\bar{\Lambda}_P(\frac{1}{2}) - \bar{\Lambda}_S)$

**Table 6**

The same as in Table 4, but for the radial excitation,  $\Lambda'_S - \Lambda_S$ .

Refs.	Method	$\Lambda'_S - \Lambda_S$ (GeV)
32	experiment, $M_{B^*} - M_B$	0.581
28	lattice, $M_{B^*} - M_B$	0.602
31	QCD string	0.564
this work	Nonlin.+magn.	0.631

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